



Ref:CL/KB/Ofsted

Thursday 7th July

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: OFSTED REPORT

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well and you are looking forward to the summer break ahead. I am writing to you today to update you on the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection, which took place on 17-19th May 2022.

The full report will be available on the Ofsted and Academy website, but I wanted you to be the first to know how the Academy was judged, its strengths and the targets that have been set, so that we can continue to rapidly build on the improvements which have already been made.

During the inspection, several key areas of the Academy were judged, including the quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development and leadership and management. Despite the overall outcome as 'Requires Improvement', we are pleased the report identified Medeshamstede Academy as a school at which pupils are welcomed "by caring staff who go out of their way to help them engage in learning, play and enjoy school".

Ofsted also graded safeguarding as effective, with the Academy and Greenwood Academies Trust committed to ensuring that all pupils remain safe. The report added "Experienced leaders oversee systematic procedures to keep pupils safe. Staff are suitably trained in safeguarding." Our links with support agencies were also found to be well established.

Inspectors also noted additional strengths of our Academy, which are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our pupils, staff, parents and carers, and a reflection of our commitment to re-establish and build on a positive trajectory. These include that:

- The youngest pupils thrive in the nurturing environment provided for them and that the high expectations and established routines ensure they behave well
- The majority of pupils engage well in reading and mathematics
- The teaching of early communication skills is prioritised
- Staff use their good relationships and consistent approaches well to enable verbal and non-verbal primary-aged pupils to interact and make good progress
- Pupils and their backgrounds are known well, with pupils appreciating learning from the personalised, one-to-one support provided for them
- Pupils develop an understanding of different relationships and career opportunities through regular personal, social and health education lessons
- Most Year 11 pupils move onto further education or training

Medeshamstede Academy is part of the Greenwood Academies Trust Group of Academies

The Greenwood Academies Trust is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, registered number 06864339.

A list of Directors is available for inspection at the registered office, Greenwood House, Private Road No 2, Colwick Quays Business Park, Nottingham NG4 2JY.

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- Staff are suitably trained in safeguarding and recording procedures enable leaders to follow up concerns in a timely way and check regularly that action has been taken to keep pupils safe.

Inspectors also recognised that new resources and staff training are planned for later this year. This will enable us to progress our improvement strategy even further and ensure the best possible provision and support is provided to all year levels across the Academy.

At Medeshamstede Academy, we are dedicated to providing the best possible educational environment so that our young people can go on to live happy and fulfilled lives. While we are proud of the strengths identified by Ofsted, there is always more to be done. We are committed to our ongoing improvement journey, and this will continue to involve working closely with our pupils, parents and carers, teachers and staff and the wider school community, such as the local authority and expert support agencies.

Importantly, the report did also highlight a number of areas where the Academy needs to improve further. These include ensuring consistency of provision across all year levels; improving engagement in learning for pupils with complex needs; expanding the enrichment opportunities around cooking, music, art and design; building on existing behaviour policies; and strengthening the relationship with the local authority and working with them to ensure pupils are appropriately placed.

The Academy had already identified many of these aspects as areas for improvement, introducing initiatives to strengthen our provision. These include:

- **Making two new leadership appointments** – the Academy has recently appointed a new Executive Principal, Sarah Martin, and Principal, Charlie Smith, who will not only bring their expertise to the Academy but also increase the capacity of the leadership team. Both Ms Martin and Ms Smith will commence these roles in the new academic year however, they are already embedding themselves in the Academy, ensuring a smooth transition for pupils, parents and colleagues.
- **Significantly investing in enrichment opportunities** – with the support of the Trust, we have already undertaken major refurbishments and reconfigurations of the academy building to support and further expand our pupils' enrichment opportunities. Work is already underway and due to complete in the new academic year but will include additional sensory rooms; soft play areas; specialist rooms offering art, design and technology and science; as well as two additional classrooms which will support bespoke alternative provision.
- **Further strengthening behaviour** – by continuing to work closely with our pupils, parents and carers and staff, we are undertaking a full review to bolster the Academy's behaviour policy which will clearly set out behavioural expectations which will enable us to provide the best possible education in a supportive environment.
- **Reviewing the curriculum** – we are determined to provide an engaging educational experience for our pupils and as such are planning a robust review of the curriculum and teaching and learning time to ensure we continue engaging pupils and support their unique needs.

This is only a snapshot of the actions being taken and we will continue to be determined in our efforts to enhance our provision and look forward to implementing these measures, alongside our current offering, for the benefit of our pupils. We are committed to continuing to provide the best possible teaching and learning at the Academy and want to reassure you that we are working hard, with the support of the Trust, to drive forward rapid improvements.

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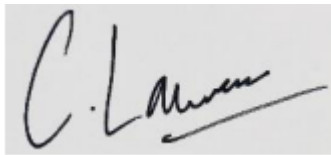
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Having the support from parents, carers and the wider community will only further strengthen our Academy and the positive impact we can have on our young people, so please do take the time to read the Ofsted report in full and if you have any questions, contact Mr Bentham at mbentham@medeshamstedeacademy.org to arrange an appointment to discuss it further. We will also be holding a parent event in September where we can discuss the report and our improvement plan with you in more detail.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Bentham; as our interim Principal, who has provided continuity for the community whilst permanent leadership was found. Greenwood Academies Trust would like to thank Mr Bentham for his commitment to the academy over the last nine months and wish him well for the future.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support. Our parents and carers play a vital role in our success, and we are very lucky to have such a supportive and inclusive community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature appears to be 'C. Lawrence' with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Clive Lawrence OBE
**Strategic Director of Academies, SEND
Greenwood Academies Trust**

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